

call Tim this eve  
5 PM (EST) -  
<He can call me 10:30

# ELIASBERG LOTS

17,000 399 Mine clearly Nicer (<sup>T&T</sup> 94.4.8 <sup>1505</sup> ex Narweib<sup>14</sup>) (62 vs 58)  
" worth 50% to 100% more

JRM - self - Gene Peale

(BID 15K) YES? (402) This better than mine (<sup>T&T</sup> 95.2a.2) Also 62 vs 58  
" worth 50% more than mine (which was \$6000 in 1978 <sup>1105</sup>)  
CHECK REMG 12 to 15 I bought 68K Superior Sale after PC sale (vs. Hansen for Portrich)

8500 (405) This even with mine @ 50 (<sup>T&T</sup> 95.5b.5 Narweib<sup>14</sup> @ 4600) except  
NO for planchet crack, which could make this price double

460,000 (spectrum) (407) This better CC #1 vs #3 (<sup>EP? T&T</sup> 96.1.2 Showers @ \$70,000)  
NO Worth 50% more - probably \$250,000

18,000 409 Mine better (<sup>T&T</sup> 97.1.9 <sup>1920</sup> #4 @ 8725) except for undertypes  
Probable value equal

20,000 Rich Coleman 411 Not equal. This has 2 pits less wear, but more marks  
than mine (<sup>35.3</sup> ex Blaisdel @ \$2900 in <sup>917</sup>)

(BID 1200) 1200 YES (412) Over large cent. I have ~~four~~ <sup>five</sup> (last two Good @ 750) <sup>3a-10</sup> <sup>1730</sup>  
<sup>1200</sup> Since mint 97 and 98! Last was 1610 @ 1250

12,500 (413) Nice double strike, but too high grade. I have four (last two Good @ 750)  
PROBABLY NO (LOW BID?)

1200 433 No, but ask Bill where corroded  
NO

26,000 436 Overgraded. Mine <sup>11.2.6</sup> MUCH nicer 60 vs 55- (ex <sup>TET</sup> Ben/pk 1934 @ 20,000) <sup>1322</sup>  
NO Mine worth at least 50% more.

6200 YES  
to Partridge  
(after 2900)

8K → 446 This clearly nicer, primarily color (32.1.6 ex <sup>TET</sup> Turbos\* 19 @ 2730 6/81) <sup>1136</sup>  
Worth 25% more, at least 5K

Bill 7,000 7000 → 467 For weight only. Should sell below par because of strikes  
YES, unless expensive. 6.5?

2,000 477 Mine nicer on color, clearly (ex <sup>8/2</sup> Cohen, 53.1.2 @ 105! in <sup>EP</sup>)  
Mine worth at least 25% more

:481: Check Gene Reale. My strike better (57.1.1 @ <sup>202-EP</sup> 50)  
This has better color, and should sell for 50% more

Rough Printout - Half Cent Section - The Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection  
CDT Call Mon aft or evening to JWWT  
Call JRM 4:30 (He may call me 4:30-10:30 CDT)  
at Wellington (212) 247-3900  
Call Don Tues AM 616 781-7874

# SESSION TWO

*DN comments* Tuesday Evening, May 21, 6:30 PM Sharp

Half Cents, Large Cents, Two-Cent Pieces, Nickel Three and Five-Cent Pieces: Lots 393-

## UNITED STATES HALF CENTS

### Introduction

Our country's smallest denomination was issued intermittently from 1793 through 1857. Business strikes were issued with many dates while other years were only produced in Proof format. In addition, various series of restrikes of the Proof issues were produced at the Mint from approximately 1858 through 1869. Total business strike mintage was 7,865,226 for the denomination.

The first issue features a young bust of Liberty facing left, with 1793 below and LIBERTY above. A pole crosses Liberty's right shoulder and supports a Roman cap behind her head. Her hair is partially bound by a narrow ribbon. The reverse has a wreath of two branches with leaves and berry sprays. A single bow ribbon binds the branches together at the bottom. HALF CENT in two lines within the wreath and the fraction, 1/200, is below. Around is the statutory legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following years find Miss Liberty facing right with all other design features quite similar. The pole, when present, crosses Liberty's left shoulder. On the reverse, the ribbon has a double bow and the berry sprays have been replaced by single berries.

With the 1800 coinage date, a new hair style for Miss Liberty finds her facing right, her hair tied with a ribbon and her bust finely draped. There is no longer a pole and cap. This motif by noted artist Gilbert Stuart first appeared on silver dollars of 1795 (BB-51 and 52) and later on other denominations including the large cent in 1796, illustrating a trend that was to continue: designs found on half cents usually appeared a year or two after their debut in the large cent denomination. The reverse of the 1800 half cent is quite similar to the previous design.

In 1809, the Classic Head of Liberty made its appearance on the half cent denomination. Liberty faces left with her hair bound by a fillet with LIBERTY in incuse letters. The date is below. Thirteen individual stars are around, with seven left and six right, save for one curious variety of 1828 which has but 12 stars. The reverse has a single branch bound at the bottom with a single bowed ribbon. HALF CENT within and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA around.

The year 1840 saw Proof production of the new Braided Hair design. The head of Liberty faces left with a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Thirteen stars around with date below. The reverse is of similar design to the previous issue. Only Proofs were minted from 1840 to 1848, as there were sufficient half cents of earlier dates on hand at the Mint and in commercial channels to take care of circulation needs. In 1849 the Braided Hair half cent was minted for circulation, after which it was produced continuously until 1857, with the solitary exception of 1852, when only Proofs were struck.

The five basic design styles received various minor modifications in the different coinage years.

Half cents were never common in commercial channels, and very few newspaper or other printed accounts can be found concerning them. It seems that they were scarce in their own time and not familiar to the citizenry at large. The late Roger S. Cohen, student of the series, called them "the little half-sisters," for much more attention was paid to the large copper cents. Because of this, coinage of half cents was intermittent.

### The Eliasberg Collection

By November 7, 1950, when the Eliasberg Collection was completed with the addition of the hard-won 1873-CC without arrows dime, the specialty of half cents had long since been finished. Many gems had been acquired by J.M. Clapp in the nineteenth century, and others were added by his son John H. Clapp, including numerous prizes from the F.R. Alvord cabinet of half cents auctioned in a single day by S. Hudson Chapman on June 9, 1924. Other pieces needed to fill or upgrade the display were acquired over the years.

Today, the extreme rarities are present in the Eliasberg Collection here offered, often by remarkable specimens. The 1793 B-3 half cent (Lot 394) is one of the most aesthetically satisfying of the few Mint State pieces known of this date. The profilelike gem 1796 No Pole (Lot 407) is one of the greatest all-time classics in American numismatics, a coin so remarkable in its preservation that it would be impossible to overdescribe; this is the stuff of which dreams are made.

The 1797 half cent with 1 over 1 in date (Lot 409) is one of the most interesting varieties of its era, and when seen is apt to have a generous quotient of wear; the Eliasberg Collection coin is Mint State.

Among Classic Head half cents the 1831 and 1836 are the great rarities, here represented in multiple Proof varieties of the former and a gem Proof original of the latter. Then come the awesome rarities of the 1840s, represented in every instance not by a single coin of each date, but by both large berries (original) and small berries (strike) examples, nearly all of which are gems.

During the 50 to 100 years or more that the Eliasberg Collection half cents have been off the market, generations of specialists have come and gone. Two great reference books (by Roger S. Cohen, Jr., and Walter Breen) have been published in recent times to add to the Ebenezer Gilbert volume published in 1926, and a new organization, the Early American Coppers Club, was formed and today flourishes. The connoisseurs and specialists awaiting the coins on the pages to follow are at once more extensive and more informed than its predecessors.

Today in 1996 these coins represent the numismatic equivalent of King Tut's tomb. As the collection is complete by date, by necessity it contains the common as well as the rare. It is our hope that the Eliasberg Collection half cents will be dispersed to a wide number of specialists including those new to the hobby and, of course, established connoisseurs and specialists.

Notes: Introduction, cataloging, and descriptions are by Mark Borckardt with a few additions by Q. David Bowers.

Weights are given for early pieces as well as for selected later examples for which weights typically vary (e.g., Proofs).

*WN comments:*

## Boldly Struck 1793 Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 393 1793 Breen-1; Cohen-1; Gilbert-4. EF-45. Rarity-3. Sharpness of AU-50. Wide planchet (and rare thus).

Surfaces: Medium olive-brown. A small obverse rim bruise is located at 5:00 with another at 8:00. Bold with extremely wide borders outside the beads.

Narrative: Listed as Extremely Fine by Walter Breen, this lovely specimen is certainly among the top 10 known for the variety.

Pedigree: John H. Clapp, *Clapp estate to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., 1942.*

Die state: II, early. The fraction bar is slightly weak.

Weight: 102.2 grains.

Notes: The long tailed 7 in the date gave rise to the 19th century designation of Large Date. The various illustrations in Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents* provide evidence that this variety is generally found on narrow planchets.

## Rare Mint State 1793 Half Cent

Condition Census

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 394 1793 B-3; C-3; G-1. MS-62, brown. Rarity-3. *not there*

Surfaces: Boldly struck on obverse and reverse including full rounded cheek of Miss Liberty, hair details, etc. An extraordinary coin. Well centered with wide rims outside of the beads, which are very well defined. Rich lustrous brown surfaces, glossy and somewhat prooflike. A few planchet marks are from the original metal strip and are not unusual.

Narrative: The type collector will recognize this as one of the very finest 1793 half cents ever to be offered for sale; a combination of high technical grade with what may be an even more important characteristic for a 1793 half cent: bold, sharp striking details. Apparently

not listed in Walter Breen's Condition Census although it qualifies, but see the pedigree notes below.

Pedigree: Possibly the example from the Chapman brothers' sale of the M.A. Brown collection, April 1897, recorded in the *Clapp notebook*. Another possibility is the Richard B. Winsor specimen listed in Breen's *Census* but not seen since early this century. *Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early. Very light reverse die rust.

Notes: In his 1879 *Monograph of United States Cents and Half Cents* Edouard Frossard noted that half cents of this coinage year were rare if Uncirculated. Today these issues are rarer still. In the date, the 7 has a short tail and was given the name Small Date by David Prosky and other early numismatists.

## Handsome 1793 Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color **62**

- 395 1793 B-4; C-4; G-2. EF-40. Rarity-3. Sharpness of EF-45.

Surfaces: Excellent strike and centering. The reverse border is slightly narrower to the right. Tan with a few light scratches and imperfections, primarily on the reverse.

Narrative: Ideally suited for the date or type collector. Although very desirable, this coin is not among those in the Condition Census for the variety which lessens demand from specialists.

Die state: III. Advanced clash marks and rust marks.

Weight: 103.5 grains.

Notes: This is most common 1793 variety although each is of approximately the same degree of rarity. Of course, common in the context of 1793 half cents is equivalent to rare just about everywhere else! Based on rarity and mintage information, we estimate an original production of 8,000 to 10,000 coins for each of the four varieties.

## Desirable 1794 Half Cent

High Head variety

Photo instructions: 1x

- 396 1794 B-1a; C-1a; G-9. Large Edge Letters. EF-40. Rarity-3.

Surfaces: Slight weakness among the leaves. Medium steel blended with lighter brown. Few minor marks yet much more attractive than most seen. A small depression partly obliterates N of UNITED.

Narrative: Possibly only 5% of the approximately 350 survivors are equal to or better than this specimen. Examples of the High Head variety are usually found with very dark surfaces. Those with light or medium brown such as this are quite rare and highly desirable and transcend in importance those of slightly higher numerical ratings but with dark appearance.

Die state: II. Clash marks are visible at face and hair.

Weight: 97.7 grains.

Notes: On the obverse the head of Miss Liberty is very high in the field, much closer to the inscription LIBERTY than to the date. This reverse was created with a hub containing the wreath and other details. As the hub was not deeply impressed in the die, the leaves are poorly defined on all known examples.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 397 1794 B-2b; C-2a; G-5. Small Edge Letters. VF-35. Rarity-2. Sharpness of EF-45.

Surfaces: A decent strike for the issue. Olive with a few minor marks scattered about the surfaces.

Narrative: Unusually high grade for this variety.

Pedigree: In his notebook, J.M. Clapp described a 1794 as the "Leaf on Pole" variety. We believe this to be the specimen he was referring to. If so this is from Chapman brother's sale of the M.A. Brown collection, April 1897. *Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: IV. Obverse lightly cracked through the tops of ERTY with an- other from the rim through Y and towards the nose.

Weight: 100.9 grains.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 398 1794 B-3b; C-5a; G-8. Small Edge Letters, F-12. Rarity-4.  
Surfaces: Olive brown and minutely porous. A small round pit mark is present below H in HALF.

Weight: 95.8 grains.

Die state: I. Perfect die with no visible clash marks.

*60*  
*For this up a touch more wear, a bit better outline*  
**Lustrous 1794 Half Cent**  
*no red.*  
*clearly wear on leaves*  
*now evenly struck benches.*  
*mine by 2 pits over almost 5 new color*  
**Blundered Edge**  
**Condition Census**  
*Photo instructions: 2x + Color*  
*J for W*  
*62*

- 399 1794 B-6b; C-4a; G-4. Small Edge Letters, AU-58. Rarity-2.  
Surfaces: Sharply struck with slight weakness at the right obverse border. Lustrous medium brown with pale blue highlights. A few very minor surface pits are visible. *very nice piece*

Narrative: Only 10 examples listed by Breen grade AU or better. This is certainly among the Condition Census. The edge is lettered **TWO HUNDRED A DOLLAR** with the F in FOR overlapping the final D in HUNDRED.

Pedigree: F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 22 (plated as "20") \$38.50; Elmer Sears; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: III. Heavy clash marks on obverse and reverse.

Weight: 99.2 grains.

Notes: Edge blunders are quite unusual among the early copper issues. Perhaps this is due to edge lettering only appearing on these issues from 1793 through 1795 and anomalously in 1797. By comparison, collectors of early half dollars eagerly chase those with lettering errors on the edge. Of course, half dollar specialists have a much larger base for their collecting activities, with lettered edges appearing from 1794 through 1836.

## Mint State 1794 B-9 Half Cent

### Small High Relief Head

#### Condition Census

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 400 1794 B-9; C-9; G-1. Small Edge Letters, MS-60. Rarity-2.  
Surfaces: Strongly detailed and well centered. Medium brown with tinges of lilac, faded from mint red. A small nick in front of Liberty's neck will serve to identify this specimen.

Narrative: Among one dozen examples of this variety described as Uncirculated in Breen's *Half Cent Encyclopedia*. Precise enumeration of the Condition Census is not possible unless all of the candidates are examined by the same person(s) under the same conditions and in a close time frame.

Pedigree: F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 13 \$65; S.H. Chapman (Breen said Henry Chapman); sold for \$80 to John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: IV. The obverse is cracked from the border through the cap to the hair curls. Another crack extends through the tops of LIBERTY.

Weight: 108.5 grains.

Notes: The F.R. Alford Collection, sold by S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, was one of the first great half cent cabinets formed. Today many of the coins plated in the original catalog are untraced, although quite a few are in the present offering.

## Glorious 1795 Lettered Edge

### Condition Census

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 401 1795 Lettered Edge, with Pole. B-1; C-1; G-1. MS-62, brown. Rarity-2.

Surfaces: Sharply detailed. Very slightly off center with the obverse border narrower below the date. Lustrous light brown with a few minor scattered marks. The obverse is profilelike while the reverse is frosty.

Narrative: Omitted from the Breen Census for unknown reasons. There are probably not more than a dozen examples of this variety existing in full Mint State preservation.

Pedigree: Victor Long Collection; Charles Sniggevalt, April 22, 1897; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: IV. Die swelling at AME is faint.

Weight: 116.3 grains.

Notes: Almost certainly Walter Breen would have seen this coin when the others were reviewed, although it is known in other contexts that his notes concerning this and certain other great collections were sometimes incomplete (e.g., Garrett, for which he omitted the 1827 original quarter dollar in his Proof coins *Encyclopedia*). On at least two occasions many of his notes concerning various series (New Jersey coppers, colonials, half cents, Proof coins) were lost and he had to reconstruct them from his memory (which in most cases was excellent).

*Not this has nice color, more than, slightly less wear on high hair, but less clean surfaces in planchet on face*  
*Similar color to surface*  
*reference. No difference in wear.*  
*Traces of Mint red*  
*Condition Census*  
*Photo instructions: 2x + Color*  
*notwithstanding we stain (not very distracting)*  
*58*

- 402 1795 Lettered Edge, Punnetuated Date, B-2a; C-2a; G-3. MS-62, brown. Rarity-3. *small carbon neck*

Surfaces: Both the obverse and reverse are finely defined. Smooth and lustrous light brown with traces of faded red. Faint surface imperfections and splashes of light green on the reverse. A very highly attractive example. *Good ok except for reverse stains*

Narrative: Certainly among the top six known for this variety. This specimen, unless it is earlier from the Winsor or Parmelee collections, is not listed in Breen's Census. *EST. 10K good buy*

Pedigree: M.A. Brown Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 16-17, 1897; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. *CC 2 on 3*

Die state: IV. The reverse die is broken among the denticles above ED, die swelling is heavy above AMER, and an additional crack connects the tops of RICCA to the fraction.

Weight: 105.9 grains.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 403 1795 Plain Edge, Punnetuated Date, B-4; C-4; G-4. Rarity-3. F-12. Sharpness of VF-20.

Tan with light scratches on Liberty's head. The obverse rim has a small bruise at 9 o'clock.

Pedigree: A. L. Schuyler Collection; Ben G. Green, May 25, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: III. Cracked through the first T of STATES and through the wreath.

Weight: 81.0 grains.

## High Grade 1795 B-5a Half Cent

Photo instructions: 1x

404 1795 Plain Edge, No Pole. B-5a; C-5a; G-6. Rarity-3. EF-40. Sharpness of EF-45.

Surfaces: Little actual wear but weakly impressed. Olive and steel with slight planchet roughness.

Narrative: A scarce variety which is generally found in low grades. Most likely among the top 15 or so examples of the variety.

Pedigree: F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 52 \$22.00; Elmer Sears; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: II. A second crack, within the wreath, parallels the first reverse crack from the first 'I' in STATES through the wreath.

Weight: Thin planchet. 79.9 grains.

## Condition Census 1795 B-5b

Photo instructions: 1x

Surfaces: 1795 Plain Edge, No Pole. B-5b; C-5b; G-6. Rarity-4. AU-50.

Narrative: This incredible beauty is listed as fourth finest known in Breen's Census following three Uncirculated examples. All specimens of this variety are identified as having been struck on cut down cents which were mis-struck. No trace of center dentype is visible on this specimen.

Pedigree: David S. Wilcox; Henry Chapman, privately; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: I. Earlier than the thin planchet example offered above.

Weight: Thick planchet. 110.5 grains. 24.4 mm.

1795 Plain Edge, No Pole. B-6; C-6; G-5. VG-8. Rarity-2. Sharpness of VF-12. Very slightly off center with wide denticles at the upper left obverse. Attractive light brown with minor obverse scratches.

Die state: I. Perfect dies.

Weight: 76.1 grains.

## The Famous 1796 No Pole Half Cent

Prooflike gem

Chapman: "Proof"

Mehl: "Proof"

Photo instructions: 1x + E + Color

407 1796 No Pole. B-1; C-1; G-2. Rarity-6. MS-65 or better, red and brown.

Surfaces: Superb, sharp strike and well centered with excellent definition of all denticles. Square edge. Fully prooflike and most probably a presentation or specimen coin; just as easily called Proof-65 or finer. Mirrorlike characteristics in every aspect of obverse and reverse. Mostlly light brown with significant areas of original mint red, especially in protected areas such as the date numerals, LIBERTY, and, on the reverse, within the wreath and letters.

Narrative: A truly exceptional, fantastic coin in every respect. An American numismatic treasure. In his Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, Walter Breen described this, very simply, as "a true Mint State coin, free of any problems." Given top billing in his Condition Census although two or three other specimens may be similar in quality.

Pedigree: Richard B. Winsor; S.H. and Henry Chapman, December 16-17, 1895, Lot 1012 \$300; George H. Earle, Jr.; Henry Chapman, June 25-29, 1912, Lot 3609 \$400; Col. James W. Ellsworth; Wayte Raymond, privately; William Cutler Weaver, Sr.; Azeator Estate; B. Max Mehl, June 11, 1946, Lot 129 \$1,125; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: With characteristic bisecting die crack continuous across the obverse.

Notes: B. Max Mehl, arguably the most colorful professional numismatist of all times, described this coin as "Brilliant semi-proof" when cataloging the Azeator Collection. Mehl continued: "I really believe the coin is and was struck as a Proof. It has a brilliant light olive surface with traces of the original mint red nicely blended in. It is magnificently struck and centered with deep milled borders and sharp edge. While I am endeavoring to be conservative in both my description of condition of these coins, and also the use of superlative adjectives, but this gem is simply too much for me to overcome."

Earlier, Henry Chapman described this coin as a "Proof" while cataloging the Earle Collection.

It is sometimes fashionable to call early profile coins "Proofs," and in some instances they may have been intended as presentation pieces in this regard. However, there is no documentation of Proofs being made by a special proofing process prior to 1817 when the Mint installed new equipment. Even after that point there are little records available until the late 1850s. Should a coin be called a Proof because it looks like one, or should there be surrounding evidence or documentation or at least long-standing tradition that it was made as a Proof? This point has not been completely resolved. On a de facto basis, the present 1796 No Pole half cent could be called a Proof.

## 1796 Half Cent Rarity

With Pole Variety

Photo instructions: 2x

408 1796 With Pole. B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-4. G-6/AG-3.

Surfaces: Smooth and pleasing ebony with a small rim nick at 2:00.

Narrative: The 1796 With Pole half cent is one of the most famous issues in the American copper series. Perhaps 100 or so are known, nearly all of which are in low grades. It is always an occasion when an example crosses the auction block.

Pedigree: Charles Morris Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 19-20, 1905; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: Undetermined.

Weight: 78.9 grains.

Notes: Mint reports indicate 115,480 half cents were struck during the calendar year 1796. Current estimates place the mintage of 1796-dated half cents at 1,390 coins. As with most denominations in the early days of our Mint, the calendar year production is not always the same as the production of a given coinage date. Dies were used until they no longer were serviceable regardless of the year for which they were dated. Obv. This has 2 p's more wear than very tedious specimen. This slightly cleaner surface, and not disturbed by under-type name has just minted. REV Equal wear. Slightly higher color on miter.

Condition Census

1 Above 1 variety

Nice 60

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

409 1797 1 Above 1. B-1; C-1; G-4. Rarity-2. MS-63, brown.

Surfaces: Sharply defined. Lustrous, frosty medium brown with tinges of original red.

Narrative: Just seven strictly Uncirculated examples of this die combination are listed in Breen's Census. This example was apparently struck on rolled copper stock (Breen-1a) with no trace of any visible under-type. Noble less than 63

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906, Lot 1195; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: IV, early. Cracked from the rim through B and into the hair with a branch extending towards Liberty's brow.

Die next below + L. of LIBERTY. 3 areas depressed; before, along edge (toward ear), at eye.



Weight: 88.3 grains.

Notes: The date was first begun too high on the die, the numeral 1 was abandoned, and the full date 1797 was cut below it. On the finished coins from this die the original 1 is boldly visible over the final 1.

Photo instructions: 1x

410 1797 Plain Edge. B-2; C-2; G-3. Rarity-3. F-15. Sharpness of VF-20.

Surfaces: Light steel with a few scattered marks and microscopic scratches. The edge has faint file marks of unknown origin. There is no trace of any undertype (Breen-2A).

Die state: IV. Cracked through tops of UN extending to the border over 1 and to the border below 2.

Weight: 81.9 grains.

## Condition Census 1797 Lettered Edge

Obs. This has 2+ pla. less wear but more marks than the other. Exceedingly sharp marks, very color a bit better. Photo instructions: 2x + Color

411 1797 Lettered Edge. B-3a; C-3b; G-1. Rarity-4. VF-30, sharpness of EF-40.

Surfaces: Light weakness at the upper right reverse. Medium tan and quite attractive despite many small nicks and a small rim bruise at 2:00.

Narrative: Not listed among coins in the Breen Census and apparently overlooked or among his lost notes (see note under Lot 401). First described in 1860, the 1797 Lettered Edge half cents have always been considered rarities and are always in demand. In 1880 in an era when serious numismatic research was just beginning, David Proskoy commented that not more than five were known. Today an estimated 175 examples are known with most in very low grades. Of these, the top 10 examples listed by Breen all grade Very Fine or Extremely Fine with the remaining coins grading less than Very Fine. Pedigree: F.R. Atwood Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 58 \$100.00; "Barr"; unknown; John H. Clapp, Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: IV. Reverse crack of Breen's state V (through E of UNITED into the wreath) is visible although the obverse crack of state III (break at chin) is very faint.

Weight: 80.7 grains.

Photo instructions: 1x

412 1797 Low Head. B-3c; C-3a; G-2. Rarity-3. VG-8.

Surfaces: Struck over another coin, probably on a planchet cut down from a spoiled large cent, with extremely wide denticles in a crescent on obverse and reverse. No other details of the undertype are visible. Dark brown with minor corrosion and a small green pit mark in the center of the reverse.

Narrative: This die combination is only known on planchets made from large cents. The majority of survivors show little, if any, traces of the undertype.

Pedigree: Matthew A. Stickney Collection; Henry Chapman, June 25-29, 1907; John H. Clapp, Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: Early.

Weight: 77.3 grains.

as described - not much on rev., dark spots not too bad - dark cover are not at all faint

## Prooflike Gem 1800 Half Cent

Fully and double struck

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

413 1800 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-64, prooflike.

Surfaces: Full obverse and reverse, diepicks. Double struck with 90° rotation between strikes. Liberty's profile is visible within the upper hair and additional leaves are noted on the reverse. The ob-

verse is brown while the reverse is lighter tan faded from mint red. Ample brighter red is visible along the reverse border. Both surfaces are fully prooflike.

Narrative: Described on the Eliasberg inventory as a "Proof." This specimen is worthy of continued study (see note under Lot 407). In his *Half Cent Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen described the few known (Rarity-7) early die state examples as being struck on spoiled cent planchet stock. The surface quality and nearly exact weight (0.1 grain over standard) led this writer to the conclusion that this coin was struck on a planchet supplied by Boulton & Watt of Birmingham, England, a firm that represented the leading edge in coinage technology at the time.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: I. The obverse and reverse denticles are fully defined, a very rare occurrence among 1800 dated half cents. A die file mark slanting up to the left from the left top of F is very bold.

Weight: 84.1 grains.

Notes: Most Mint State 1800 half cents survive due to two hoards. The first was recovered early in this century while the second was found in Boston in the late 1930s. Prior to the discovery of these hoards, uncirculated half cents of this coinage date were considered rare as noted by Frossard in his 1879 monograph.

Photo instructions: 1x

18020 Second Reverse. B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-3. F-12. Sharpness of VF-30.

Surfaces: Dark and porous. Nubbed edge has appeal. Narrative: A scarce date always in demand.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Note: Conventional wisdom (cf. Breen) has it that all 1802 half cents were struck on planchets cut from misstruck large cents. However, only a very few 1802 half cents in existence today have any traces of an undertype.

Photo instructions: 1x

415 1803 B-1; C-1; G-2. Rarity-1. AU-50.

Surfaces: Slight weakness on the lower portion of the wreath. Light steel brown with faint iridescent blue and traces of reddish orange.

Narrative: By no means is this a rare variety, however, in higher grades such as this, "scarce" is an appropriate description.

Die state: VI. The reverse is extensively cracked including a crack through the tops of ITED and MER.

Photo instructions: 1x

416 1803 B-3; C-3; G-3. Rarity-3. AU-55.

Surfaces: Liberty's shoulder and the upper leaves are weak. Golden olive with very minor spots.

Narrative: This reverse die, known as the "cross-eyed zeros" reverse by Roger S. Cohen, Jr., was also used with an 1804-dated obverse die.

Die state: IX, early. Heavy bulge at digit 3. The reverse die has an arc-like crack through the second T in STATES and the wreath, to the right rim between ME.

Notes: The reverse was first used with this 1803-dated obverse die, later used alternately with the 1803 and 1804-dated obverses, and finally used again with the 1803 obverse. Based on the die states listed by Breen, the following emission sequence is suggested: 1803 (State I); 1803 (I); 1803 (II); 1804 (I); 1804 (II); 1803 (IV); 1803 (V); 1803 (VI); 1803 (VII); 1803 (VIII); 1804 (III); 1804 (IV); 1804 (V); 1803 (IX); 1803 (X).

417 1803 B-4; C-4; G-1. Rarity-1. VF-35.

Surfaces: The upper left branch of the wreath shows weakness and HALF CENT is shallow. Retoned to light olive with traces of orange on the obverse.

Die state: II. Clash marks are visible on the reverse.

Notes: This variety is easily identified by the extra berry on the outside of the left wreath below the first T in STATES.

# 1804 Spiked Chin Half Cent

Badly broken reverse die

Photo instructions: 1x

- 418 1804 Spiked Chin. B-6; C-6; G-8. Rarity-2. MS-60. **62**  
**Surfaces:** Sharply detailed although a few leaves are poorly defined. Medium brown and teal with traces of artificial red.

**Narrative:** Possibly the single most popular die variety in all of American numismatics. In a recent *Penny-Wise* article (March 15, 1995) collector Lanny Reinhardt described this variety as the "mother of all half cent die stage [sic] collecting."

**Die state:** XIV or later. Nearly terminal die state with extensive reverse rim breaks.

**Notes:** In the early 19th century the Mint had great difficulty securing steel appropriate for coinage dies. One result was the continued use of dies far beyond their life expectancy, as illustrated by the current offering.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 419 1804 Spiked Chin. B-7; C-8; G-7. Rarity-1. MS-60. **62**  
**Surfaces:** Hair above the forehead is slightly weak as are the lower right leaves on the reverse, these being typical points of striking weakness among the Draped Bust half cents. Lovely medium brown with light tan faded from mint color.

**Narrative:** This variety is the most common of the Spiked Chin die marriages. Perhaps two dozen Mint State examples survive.

**Pedigree:** *Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

**Die state:** III. The obverse die has a light crack through the tops of LIBER. A minor die crack is visible through R of AMERICA. In later die states, this crack becomes much heavier.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 420 1804 Crosslet 4, Stems. B-8; C-9; G-5. Rarity-2. MS-60. **63**  
**Surfaces:** The lower right wreath shows typical weakness. Attractive medium brown, frosty and lustrous.

**Die state:** III. Minor obverse cracks through LI, RTY, and 180. The reverse die crack through R is in about the same stage as the previous variety.

**Notes:** The reverse die was combined with three different obverse dies. The Spiked Chin (Lot 419) is instantly recognized. The currently offered variety has a wide date with the digit 4 tilted left and distant from the 0. The next die marriage (Lot 421) has the digit 4 upright and almost touching the 0.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 421 1804 Crosslet 4, Stems. B-9; C-10; G-4. Rarity-1. MS-63/60. **63**  
**Surfaces:** Very sharply detailed. The obverse is lovely golden brown with ample mint red. The reverse, however, is dull brownish maroon.

**Die state:** I. The obverse die is without cracks or clash marks. The reverse die crack through R is heavy as always in this die marriage.

Photo instructions: 2x

- 422 1804 Plain 4, Stemless. B-10; C-13; G-2. Rarity-1. MS-63, brown. **65**

**Surfaces:** Minor weakness on a few of the leaves. Olive and golden brown with substantial traces of original red. Superb aesthetic appeal.

**Die state:** III. Weak obverse borders with a faint, nearly vertical, die crack in the left field.

**Notes:** This reverse die was also used in 1805 and 1806. The 1804 Breen-10 marriage was struck on an alternating basis with 1805 Breen-1; this is explained by removing dies from a press so the press could be used for other work, then replacing the dies, not necessarily with the same obverse and reverse matching.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 423 1804 Crosslet 4, Stemless. B-11; C-12; G-3. Rarity-2. AU-55. **60**  
**Surfaces:** Sharply defined with all leaves fully detailed. Frosty olive-tan with a few tiny black spots.

*Pedigree:* Apparently from the Matthew A. Stickney Collection sale, June 1907, to John H. Clapp, Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** I. Both dies are rusted. Reverse rim breaks are beginning to develop over MERICA.

**Notes:** This reverse die, common among four varieties spanning three coinage dates and struck on an alternating basis, provides an intriguing look at early Mint production processes.

- 424 1804 Plain 4, With Stems. B-12; C-11; G-1. Rarity-3. VF-20. Sharpness of EF-45. **60**

**Surfaces:** Weakness is present at various points in the wreath. The reverse has two large scratches which cross each other below HALE. Both sides have many other small scratches and nicks.

*Pedigree:* *George Bauer Collection; Ben G. Green, April 8, 1905; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

**Die state:** II. The reverse die is slightly bulged.

- 425 1805 Medium 5, Stemless. B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. AU-50. Sharpness of MS-60. **63**

**Surfaces:** Sharp including all leaves. Mottled tan, olive, and dark brown with small corrosion spots, primarily on the reverse.

**Narrative:** As a coinage date, 1805 issues are approximately on par with 1800, 1803, and 1808. Issues dated 1802 are scarcer while 1804, 1806, and 1807 are more common.

**Die state:** II. A reverse rim break is visible under the right ribbon only.

**Notes:** This example is in an earlier reverse die state than the 1804 Stemless issue offered above (Lot 423).

Photo instructions: 1x

- 426 1806 Small 6, Stemless. B-3; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-62, brown. **65**

**Surfaces:** Boldly detailed. Tan with faded red.

**Die state:** IV. A faint crack connects the tops of LIBERTY. This is a late die state and the final use of the Stemless reverse die.

## Mint State 1806 Half Cent

Nearly full red

Photo instructions: 1x + Color

- 427 1806 Large 6, Stems. B-4; C-4; G-3. Rarity-1. MS-63, red and brown. **67**

**Surfaces:** Typical weakness on the drapery and at the top leaves. Predominately red with a tiny toning spot on the obverse above ER. The reverse is approximately 80% red.

**Narrative:** Probably from the hoard of spotty mint red coins discovered by the Chapman brothers shortly after the turn of the century. If so, this is one of the nicer examples from that group.

**Die state:** II. On obverse die cracks.

- 428 1807 B-1; C-1; G-1. EF-45. Rarity-2. **63**

**Surfaces:** Very blunt strike due to the late die state. Dark olive with traces of tan mint lustre. A few scattered surface imperfections are noted.

*Pedigree:* *William B. Watson Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, June 27-28, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

**Die state:** III. A faint crack through the top of the digit 7.

**Notes:** This issue is generally seen in late die states with details so weak that grading is very difficult.

## Significant 1808/7 Half Cent

Reverse on Gilbert Plate

Photo instructions: 1x

- 429 1808/7 B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-3. EF-40. **60**  
**Surfaces:** Slight weakness of some of the leaves. Dark steel with iridescent blue and olive. The obverse has a tiny scratch from



## Marvellous 1810 Half Cent

Liberty's eye to her ear. A small mark on the reverse rim at 6:00 provides instant pedigree identification.

**Narrative:** Fewer than ten examples are known in grades equal or better than this. For some unexplained reason, nearly all examples are encountered in well-worn grades (similar to the situation for 1802).

**Pedigree:** F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 131 \$6.00; unknown; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. The reverse of this coin is plated in the Gilbert reference.

**Die state:** II, early. Crack through the tops of ERTY is virtually imperceptible.

**Notes:** With the 1802/0 issue, this is one of just two documented overdates in the half cent series. Past numismatists have sometimes described an 1803/2 overdate and the 1809 over inverted 9 is sometimes described as an overdate although it technically is a "blundered" date.

Photo instructions: 1x

430 1808/7 B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-3. F-12. Sharpness of F-15.

**Surfaces:** Dark steel brown with two small marks in the hair. Otherwise, smooth and very attractive.

**Die state:** VI. A rim break over RTY with die cracks from B and E to the rim. This coin is referenced in Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents* although the coin illustrated is a different example.

Photo instructions: 1x

431 1808 Normal Date. B-3; C-3; G-2. Rarity-1. AU-55.

**Surfaces:** Sharply detailed save for the upper leaves in the right branch. Dark tan and very pleasing.

**Narrative:** The reverse die is rotated 180°. *WW wants*  
**Pedigree:** Possibly from the Matthew A. Stickney Collection, Lot 1722, described by Henry Chapman simply as "Very fine. Dark olive." Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** II. Minor rust in the right obverse field.

**Notes:** The large and unusual second digit 8 was created by twice punching the small 0, from the denominator font.

432 1809/6 B-5; C-5; G-5. Rarity-1. AU-50.

**Surfaces:** Retoned blue and pale orange with a few minor marks.

**Pedigree:** Henry Blair Collection; Charles Steigerwalt, October 14, 1896; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** IV. Minor cracks through the stars on the left.

**Notes:** Not an overdate as this die was certainly not produced in 1806! Either the die maker accidentally used a "6" punch or first punched the digit 7 up side down. In either scenario, the improperly placed number was corrected.

## Handsome 1809 Half Cent

Photo instructions: 1x

433 1809 Normal Date. B-6; C-6; G-2. Rarity-1. MS-63. Red and brown. Corroded - No interest

**Surfaces:** Stars 1 through 4 and a few leaves are weak. Olive and tan blended with mint red. A small crescent of corrosion is visible on the obverse at 1:00 and on the reverse at 3:00.

**Narrative:** The weak striking noted above is a common trait among examples of this die marriage. The otherwise exceptionally sharp Breen plate coin also displays weakness among the first four stars.

**Pedigree:** Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** IV, early. Two obverse rim breaks; lacking that later seen above star 8.

*Obv. First three stars no weak. Consistent color around devices*  
*Rev. Not as nice. Less red. Some very dark toning. Is it corrosion, as WW says. Ask him where!*  
*Left leaves weakly struck*  
*Not mine better*

Photo instructions: 1x

434 1810 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-2. MS-63, brown.

**Surfaces:** Stars on the right are weak as always seen. Olive brown with faded red on the reverse. A small corrosion spot at OF and a few other minor spots are visible on the obverse and reverse.

**Narrative:** Half cents of 1810 are scarce in all grades and very seldom seen in Mint State preservation. Probably not more than ten examples show any traces of mint color. This example is particularly notable.

**Pedigree:** M. A. Brown Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 16-17, 1897; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** IV, early. A reverse crack through STATES does not extend to OF. A faint crack joins the tops of MER.

## Lovely 1811 Half Cent

Wide Date variety

Photo instructions: 1x + Color

435 1811 Wide Date. B-1; C-1; G-2. Rarity-4. AU-50.

**Surfaces:** Well centered with decent detail although slightly weak at the stars and leaves. Slightly reflective surfaces. A scratch from the rim over star 7 reaches the hair over the ribbon. The obverse is light steel with blue iridescence. The reverse is olive-brown and light steel.

**Pedigree:** F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 151 \$10.25; Elmer Sears; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** I. Perfect dies.

**Notes:** The most common die states for this variety are state I (offered here) with perfect dies and state V with a rim break touching the first four stars. Intermediate states with a crack through these stars, or with the rim break touching just one or two stars, are rarely encountered.

*obv. some strike on 4 stars, some back of wear, very color*  
*very lighter stars*

## Majestic 1811 Half Cent

Close Date variety

*Rev. Mine has always strike at UNITED + particularly at left leaves. Mine MUCH better color*

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

436 1811 Close Date. B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-3. MS-63, brown.

**Surfaces:** The left obverse stars and corresponding left reverse are weak. Steel brown with a small spot of corrosion at 4 and 5. The reverse is lighter tan faded from mint red.

**Narrative:** A truly majestic specimen of this issue, and one apparently unknown to or forgotten Breen and not listed in his census. In fact, he did not list *any* Uncirculated examples. For the specialist this represents a truly outstanding opportunity to acquire a coin that has been off the market for generations.

**Die state:** II. Heavy clad marks.

**Notes:** In his excellent serial study of half cent auction appearances, published in *Penny-Wise* over a four year period in the 1970s, Milton B. Pfeffer suggested that the reverse weakness may have been caused by a warped die.

437 1825 B-1; C-1; G-2. Rarity-3. AU-58.

**Surfaces:** Well defined with light brown reflective surfaces. Few minor marks of negligible concern.

**Narrative:** This is the scarcer of two 1825 dated die marriages which share a common reverse. The position of the 5 with respect to the hair curl distinguishes between the obverse dies.

**Die state:** III. The vertical obverse crack is faint in the field and more easily visible within the details of Miss Liberty.

## Exquisite 1825 Half Cent

"Real Gem"

Photo instructions: 1x

67

- 438 1825 B-2; C-2; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-65, brown.

**Surfaces:** Virtually pristine. Olive and turquoise with splashes of mint red and aesthetically pleasing.

**Narrative:** Walter Breen reported the existence of "dozens of records for Uncirculated coins, but no real gems." Here is a "real gem."

**Die state:** II, early. No obverse or reverse rust pits. Faint clash marks are visible within the wreath.

## Splendid 1826 Half Cent

With Original Mint Red

Photo instructions: 1x

PF, 65

- 439 1826 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-65/63, red and brown.

**Surfaces:** Usual weakness on the upper left and right stars. Olive brown with red and quite rare as such. Several small spots are present on the reverse.

**Pedigree:** Henry Blair Collection; Charles Steigerwalt, October 14, 1896; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** IV, early. Branch crack to star 2 and plain file marks.

**Notes:** A characteristic of the obverse die is the presence of rather heavy die file marks (raised, as die lines) just right of the date. Some numismatists have speculated that these cover an extra star accidentally punched in the die. Another possibility, generally never mentioned, is an extra digit 6 in this location.

## Gorgeous 1828 Half Cent

13 Stars Variety

Photo instructions: 1x + Color

PF, 67

- 440 1828 13 Stars. B-2; C-3; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-64/66, red.

**Surfaces:** All design details are bold. Full red with a few small obverse spots. Simply delightful.

**Narrative:** Very possibly from the well documented Collins find.

**Die state:** I. Perfect dies.

## Classic 1828 Half Cent

12 Stars variety

Photo instructions: 1x

65

- 441 1828 12 Stars. B-3; C-2; G-3. Rarity-2. MS-63, red and brown.

**Surfaces:** Slight weakness at stars 1 through 4 and among the leaves. Steel brown with approximately 10% mint red. A few minor marks yet quite pleasing.

**Narrative:** Popular as an instantly recognized die variety desired by date collectors and variety specialists alike. This variety is not rare but remains difficult to locate with any mint color.

**Die state:** II. The reverse die has been polished to remove defects.

This anomalous star count coin is similar in its concept to the rare 1832 55 with only 12 obverse stars. The omission in each instance is unexplained and is probably the result of the engraver daydreaming.

## Outstanding 1829 Half Cent

Virtually Full Mint Red

Photo instructions: 1x

PF, 67

- 442 1829 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-64, red and brown.

**Surfaces:** Sharply detailed except for weakness at the lower right wreath. Virtually full red with a few dark toning spots on both sides.

**Narrative:** An extremely important offering as this issue is virtually never seen with substantial red mint frost.

**Pedigree:** Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** III. Very faint reverse die cracks are present.

**Notes:** In *Penny-Wire* (Whole number 59, March 15, 1977, pages 99-100), Milton Pfeffer described the raised die line through H and C as a cracked or damaged master die. This in turn transferred the damage to the coinage hub in relief. Mint personnel then attempted to polish this away before producing the final coinage dies. This explains the incomplete nature of this defect as it appears on the struck coins.

## Classic 1831 Half Cent Rarity

Original

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

PF

- 443 1831 Original. B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-6 as a variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Proof-65, brown.

**Surfaces:** Exceptional strike as expected. Iridescent turquoise, olive, lilac, and blue. A few microscopic marks do not visually detract from the beauty of this early Proof.

**Narrative:** Fewer than 20 business strikes and approximately 9 Proofs are known from these dies. This specimen has brilliantly mirrored fields although perhaps two other examples are known with bronzed surfaces. As a date the 1831 is one of the great classic rarities in the series. Only 2,200 business strikes were made, and, as noted only a few of these exist today. Proofs are rarer yet and are exceedingly important as Proofs *per se*, but additional important in the context of the 1831 date.

**Pedigree:** F.R. Alford Collection; S.H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, Lot 171 (plated as "177") \$51.00; "Barr"; unknown; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Weight:** 80.2 grains.

1831 marks the first of the limited-production years in the later half cent series, the others being 1836, 1840-1849, 1849 (Small Date), and 1852. Stocks of half cents were accumulating at the Mint and in banks, and there was little need to make additional large quantities.

## Memorable 1831 Half Cent

Large Berries Restrike

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

PF

- 444 1831 Restrike, Large Berries. B-2; G-1. Rarity-6. Proof-64, red and brown. Perhaps 30 examples are known.

**Surfaces:** Sharply detailed. 60% red obverse. The reverse is olive-blue with splashes of red. A few minute surface imperfections are noted.

**Narrative:** Series I Restrike. Not listed in Breen's Census, no doubt omitted in error (see note under Lot 401).

**Pedigree:** John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** I. Perfect dies.

**Notes/weight:** Walter Breen divided the various restrikes into "Series," numbered from I to VII. Series I restrikes, which were probably struck during the 1858-1860 era, are known on planchets which weighed 79.8 to 83.8 grains. This example is comfortably within that range at 82.4 grains.

# Seldom Offered 1831 Half Cent

## Small Berries Restrike

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 445 1831 Restrike, Small Berries B-3; G-2, Rarity-7. Proof-65, red and brown.

Surfaces: Fully detailed. Knife rim to the left. On the right, the rim seems to fall off to the edge providing a slightly tapered effect. 50% red obverse with the reverse steel and lilac. A small spot is visible above Liberty's eye.

Narrative: Only five examples were known to Breen. These five have only been offered for sale seven or eight times in this century! The present specimen Series VI restrike and among the latest struck with this reverse die. In fact the currently offered example is in a later die state than certain restrikes with dates from 1840 through 1848 and 1852.

Pedigree: Charles Steigerwalt, December 17, 1907; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Weight: 76.7 grains.

Notes: The exact time of issue of the various restrikes of this and later years has never been pinpointed although Breen states that they were issued from about 1858 through 1869. They were well known to collectors by 1879 and are mentioned by Edouard Frossard in his monograph. Breen's series VI restrikes have a recorded weight range from 68.2 to 79.0 grains. They are characteristically weak at the center of the reverse.

Although most restriking at the Mint is generally believed to have occurred from about 1858 through the early 1860s, in fact the 1870s were times of great activity as well and saw many delicacies created, including the 1801-1802-1803 Proof dollars, unusual mulings (e.g., Lot 283 in the present sale), and other items which today constitute a fascinating repertoire with probably many more details yet to be discovered.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 446 1832 B-1; C-1; G-2, Rarity-2, MS-64, red and brown.

Surfaces: Very sharp. Over 50% mint red with the lustrous satiny. The reverse is red with cobweb brown toning.

Narrative: Reverse of 1831. This same reverse die was earlier used to produce the 1831 Original issue of limited (2,200) business strike production.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: I. Perfect dies.

Notes: A short projection from the bottom left of the E is a remnant from a misplaced E, known to collectors as the "Accessory E".

## Appealing 1833 Half Cent

- 447 1833 B-1; C-1; G-1, Rarity-1, Proofs are Rarity-5, MS-64, prooflike or Proof-64. Take your choice.

Surfaces: Fully defined down to the most minute hair details. Mirrored blue-green surfaces with a brown stain between the ribbon and star 7.

Narrative: Listed as Proof in the Clapp notebook and as About Uncirculated on the Eliasberg inventory! Proof per Walter Breen's definition of die state. The present catalogue (Mark Bockard) considers it to be a Proof. Prospective bidders can make their own choice, as the matter will probably never be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: III. No clash marks. The die is cracked from the outer point of star 2 through stars 3 to 7 and into the field above the first hair curl. According to Walter Breen, this die state is found only on Proofs.

Weight: 82.6 grains.

Notes: Distinguishing between Proofs and business strikes among these early issues is not always an easy task. Business strikes are often found proof-like and resembling Proofs in many ways. In fact, we have seen Proofs in certified holders labeled "Mint State" and vice-versa.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 448 1834 B-1; C-1; G-1, Rarity-1, MS-65, red and brown.

Surfaces: Sharply detailed. Mostly mellow red. Slight discoloration is noted at the wreath ribbon.

Pedigree: David S. Wilson; Henry Chapman, privately; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: III. Doubled clash marks.

Photo instructions: 1x

- 449 1835 B-1; C-1; G-2, Rarity-1, MS-64, red and brown.

Surfaces: Sharply struck with substantial mint red blended with pale lilac.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: II. Minor obverse and reverse clash marks.

## Delightful 1835 Proof Half Cent

### Full Mint Red

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 450 1835 B-2; C-2; G-1, Rarity-1 as a variety, Rarity-6 as Proof. Proof-64/63, red.

Surfaces: Boldly detailed. The obverse has numerous tiny spots while the reverse is slightly dull, possibly having been subjected to an outside etching agent in some long-forgotten year.

Narrative: Reported Proof survival is in the range of 18 pieces.

Pedigree: Unknown but possibly from the Aword collection (Lot 183 \$4.25) which was described by S.H. Chapman simply as "Proof. Bright red. Rare." Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: III, early. No crack is present from the border to R.

Weight: 84.7 grains.

## Classic 1836 Half Cent Rarity

### Original

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 451 1836 Original, B-1; G-1, Rarity-5+ to R-6. Proof-64, red and brown.

Surfaces: Sharply defined with faded red and teal.

Narrative: This is the first half cent issue to have been produced only in Proof format. The 1836 is one of the great classic rarities among early American copper coins, and, typically, only the greatest cabinets possess a specimen. This splendid gem, off the market for 92 years, will delight a new generation of prospective bidders. Such situations point out that opportunity is often more important than the price paid. Once sold, this gem may be unavailable for many decades to come.

Pedigree: John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: Perfect reverse although slightly buckled in the center.

Weight: 83.8 grains.

Notes: The reverse die was initially used with this obverse and, later, was combined with an 1831 obverse to produce the 1831 First Restrike (see Lot 444).

Although the Eliasberg Collection is one of a kind, and its likes will never be seen again, it is important to note that today in 1996 connoisseurship in numis-

matics is at a record high level. Years ago, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., had very few competitors in his search for quality, and this is why he was able to acquire so many gems. Today, were he alive he would have much competition.

Today the advanced numismatist is apt to concentrate upon a specialty rather than collect over a range of many denominations and types. Thus, a specialist with a fine cabinet of half cents is not likely to have a set of gem trade dollars nearby, or a collection of territorial gold. With today's abundance of literature on many series, specialists can enjoy an unprecedented exchange of information and camaraderie.

## Classic 1840 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 452 1840 Original. B-1a; G-1. High Rarity-6, perhaps 19 exist. Proof-63, brown.

**Surfaces:** Exceptionally detailed. Gold and lilac obverse, the reverse is toned lilac, blue, and vivid green. A small vertical cut is located on the center of the neck.

**Narrative:** The plain edge displays traces of crushed reeding. According to Breen "blanks were experimentally reeded, then coined in a plain collar, obliterating the reeding, but leaving a knurled effect at the junction between outer rim and edge. Reason unknown." Remnants of the edge reeding are quite clearly visible on this specimen. In *Penny-Wise* (Whole number 111, November 15, 1985).

Robert Schonwalter suggested that the Mint used an old collar for the Half Eagle denomination which was 22.5 mm. diameter. He continues to theorize they reamed out the collar to the proper 23 mm. diameter, leaving only traces of the edge reeding.

The 1840 begins the decade of the great classic Proof rarities in the half cent series—the rarest of the rare. At the time there were sufficient business strike pieces on hand to satisfy commercial needs. Thus, the only examples struck were a few Proofs for inclusion in sets made for dignitaries, government officials, and the relatively small number of interested collectors.

**Pedigree:** Jacob G. Morris Collection; Lyman H. Low, September 18, 1901; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** A faint die scratch is visible from the first S through the wreath to the left upright of H.

Weight: 82.1 grains.

**Notes:** The edge reeding theories merit further study. On the present 1840 Original, about half of the edge is plain—without a trace of reeding—while on the 1841 Original (Lot 454) there are traces of reeding nearly all around the edge. Moreover, there are some areas on the 1840 in which the edge reeding is especially clear (although, of course, flattened) this is on the edge opposite star 10. It would be interesting to hear from other owners of 1840 Original half cents with commentaries as to whether this area of prominence is replicated on their specimens. The idea (cf. Breen) that planchets were reeded beforehand faces the question that such a procedure would be highly unusual and, so far as we know, has no equivalent in any other closed-collar coinage at the Philadelphia Mint.

In general, Proofs of the 1840-1848 years plus 1849 Small Date can be divided into these three categories:

1. Originals. Large berries in reverse wreath. Believed to have been struck in the year indicated on each coin and for inclusion in contemporary Proof sets.

2. First restrikes. Small berries on reverse wreath. Wreath ribbon and ENT (especially the right side of the upright in T) of CENT with slight doubling (also called the Reverse of 1850). Made at a later date, probably 1858 or later.

3. Second restrikes. Small berries on reverse wreath. Diagonal file marks or lines in the die extending from the denticles over RICA. Made at a later date, probably 1858 or later, but, presumably, at a different time from the First Restrikes.

## Classic 1840 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue

2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 453 1840 Second Restrike. B-3; G-2. High Rarity-6. Probably 15 exist. Proof-65, red and brown. A superb gem; one of the finest known.

**Surfaces:** Boldly defined. Mostly red with faded lilac.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series V restrike. Just three examples of this series have been recorded.

Another entry in the great classic series of Proof-only half cent dates. The Eliasberg Collection is remarkable in that it contains multiple varieties of each of these rare dates. Most specialized cabinets over the years have had but one of each. The quality of the Eliasberg Collection coins is likewise remarkable, with gem being the order of the day.

**Pedigree:** Apparently from Thomas Elder, probably before 1907, according to the Clapp notebook. Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** Horizontal and vertical die file lines at the first two stars are yet visible although not as bold as on Lot 452 above. In his *Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen noted that these die lines should not be present. Should they be invisible on examples of his Series I through IV, the order of emission will require another look.

**Notes:** Series V Restrikes are the heaviest of all seven of Breen's restrike classifications. Weights range from 95.7 to 98.1 grains with the next closest being Series II with a maximum of 91 grains. This specimen weighs 96.3 grains. Much of the Breen commentary is highly conjectural, but often based upon close observations. Little in the way of original documentation exists.

## Classic 1841 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 454 1841 Original. B-1; G-1. Rarity-6. Approximately 24 exist. Proof-64, red. A gem of outstanding quality.

**Surfaces:** Sharply struck. Bright red with traces of brown and a few minor spots on the obverse.

**Narrative:** Crushed reeded edge (alternatively, reamed collar; see note under Lot 452) similar to the 1840 Original above.

Die crack on obverse as always seen by the writer (Mark Borckardt) and other staffers (including QDB), although Walter Breen reports one perfect die example, but tells nothing of its provenance. The die must have failed very early in the striking sequence.

**Pedigree:** Jacob G. Morris Collection; Lyman H. Low, September 18, 1901; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** III. The die crack described by Breen as passing through star 7 actually just misses this star. This specific coin is called die II in the Breen *Encyclopedia* of half cents (p. 392).

Weight: 75.1 grains.

**Notes:** The crushed reeds on the edge (or whatever they are) cover more of the edge circumference than on Lot 452 (on which about half the edge is without this feature), but the reeds are not as well defined.

Population estimates of Proof-only half cents are just that, estimates. In the vast majority of instances, pieces described in auction and fixed priced catalogues have not been accompanied by pedigrees, and there is no way of knowing how many different coins a compilation of, say, 20 appearances contains.

## Classic 1841 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 455 1841 Second Restrike. B-3; G-2. Rarity-6+ or Rarity-7. About a dozen exist. Proof-64, brown. A splendid gem.

**Surfaces:** Very slight central weakness. Knife rims are present on the right obverse and reverse. Attractive mottled toning.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series VI restrike. In his *Half Cent Encyclopedia*, Breen included this as Series V however the weight is much too low (see note).

Weight: 76.2 grains.

Notes: See notes at Lots 445 (Series VI) and 453 (series V).

As the Eliasberg Collection coins were mounted in sealed holders for several decades, it is unlikely that Walter Breen ever had the chance to weigh many, if any pieces; thus, many if not most or all of his attributions based on weights are apt to be guesswork. Moreover, 99% or more of historical auction descriptions concerning Proof half cents of this decade do not list weights, thus it is virtually impossible in retrospect to divide them into Series I, Series II, etc., restrikes.

## Classic 1842 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 456 1842 Original. B-1; G-1. High Rarity-6, 14 reported. Proof-63, red and brown.

**Surfaces:** Sharp strike with slightly dull surfaces. Mostly red obverse with 50% red reverse. The obverse rim has a tiny nick over star 5, confirming the pedigree listing below. A very small spot touches the denticles below the space between 42.

**Narrative:** The 1842 has always been one of the more prized dates in this classic Proof-only era (with 1845 perhaps being the most desired). This has been based mainly upon tradition rather than actual censuses. However, in the instance of the 1842 original, it is indeed one of the rarest of the decade.

**Pedigree:** *Matthew A. Stickney Collection; Henry Chapman, June 25-29, 1907; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Weight: 83.5 grains.

It is not known how Proof half cents of this era were distributed apart from their being included in the relatively few Proof sets issued. If they had been sold in tandem with contemporary large cents, thus constituting a "minor Proof set," then the original striking of the cents (no restrike series exists in the large cent series) would be just as rare as the original half cents. However, at an early date the rarity of the half cents in the 1840s was recognized—indeed, this is why they were restreaked after c. 1858—and probably more were saved as being "rare dates." In contrast, a Proof 1842 large cent was not rare as a date and was not considered to be a key issue. In any event, there does not seem to be a direct correlation today between the rarity of given original Proof half cent dates of the 1840s with Proof large cents of the same decade.

## Classic 1842 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
1st Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 457 1842 First Restrike. B-2; G-2. High Rarity-6. Proof-64, red and brown. A marvelous gem example.

**Surfaces:** Sharp. The obverse has a knife rim from 12:00 to 3:00 with the reverse corresponding. Full red obverse, the reverse is faded red with a few small marks.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series I Restrike. Breen records slightly over a dozen pieces, but some of these may represent multiple appearances

of the same coin. On the other hand, there are undoubtedly examples which did not come under his study. Regardless, the 1842 First Restrike remains a major rarity within the decade.

**Pedigree:** *Harlan P. Smith Collection, S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early.

Notes/Weight: Series I Restrikes were made between 1858 and 1860, according to Breen and weigh between 79.8 and 83.8 grains with most very nearly 81.8 grains. This example: 81.9 grains.

## Classic 1843 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 458 1843 Original. B-1a, G-1. Proof-64, red and brown. Rarity-6. A splendid gem.

**Surfaces:** The reverse has light strike doubling on some letters, specifically UNT and ERICA. Red and tan with a small rim imperfection, possibly a tiny clip, is visible at 7:00.

**Narrative:** Probably, about 20 specimens exist, few of which could match the gem status of the Eliasberg Collection specimen. In the midst of this list of the "rarest of the rare" in the half cent series it is easy to lose sight of the absolute rarity of these pieces—just like being in the room full of Rembrandt oils at the Metropolitan Museum. However, any single specimen from this listing would be a major showpiece in an advanced collection or high-quality auction.

**Pedigree:** *John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early.

Weight: 81.5 grains.

## Classic 1843 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 459 1843 Second Restrike. B-3; G-2. Rarity-7. Just eight are known. Proof-66, red and brown. A superb gem example of this famous rarity.

**Surfaces:** Sharp. Deeply mirrored cameo obverse with subdued satiny reverse luster. A tiny obverse rim bruise is present at 3:00.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series V restrike. This is one of the rarer Second Restrike issues of the decade and thus is of exceptional importance to the specialist. Further, the superb gem quality of this coin is probably exceeded by no other coin and matched by few if any.

**Pedigree:** *John Story Jenks Collection; Henry Chapman, December 7-17, 1921, Lot 6279 \$49; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Late.

Weight: 95.7 grains.

Notes: A pattern has developed regarding the number of First and Second Restrikes known. Generally, one or the other is more available in any given year. In 1843 there are approximately 25 First Restrikes and 8 Second Restrikes. In 1847, for comparison, there are currently just 3 First Restrikes and 24 Second Restrikes identified. Only in 1842 are the known survivors of roughly equal proportion. Breen noted "this makes sense, especially if the latter [Second Restrike] represented replacements that were sold to those collectors who didn't order in time for the earlier offerings."

*Not 66. Some rim marks new (mint-made see marks?)*

## Classic 1844 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 460 1844 Original. B-1; G-1. High Rarity-6. Proof-64, red and brown. Another notable gem.

**Surfaces:** Bold. Pale red and steel obverse, lilac and turquoise reverse.

**Narrative:** It is believed that about 15 different specimens exist, most of which fall short of gem quality. A prize rarity recognized as such for nearly a century and a half.

*Pedigree: John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early.

Weight: 83.0 grains.

## Classic 1844 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
1st Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 461 1844 First Restrike. B-2; G-2. High Rarity-7. Only five recorded by Breen. Proof-66, red and brown. Gorgeous gem quality.

**Surfaces:** Sharp. Proof-66 red obverse with red and lilac on the reverse. Tiny lint marks are present in the obverse fields, as made.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series I Restrike. The 1844 First Restrike is one of the rarest coins in this rarity-spangled decade. Often a span of many years will elapse between auction appearances. The present superb gem may well represent a "now or never" opportunity for the specialist and connoisseur.

*Pedigree: Thomas L. Elder; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early.

Weight: 81.8 grains.

## Classic 1845 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 462 1845 Original. B-1a; G-1. High Rarity-6, borderline Rarity-7. Proof-63, brown.

**Surfaces:** Sharp. The obverse is olive and lilac with considerable red. A small spot is located below star 8 with a green spot outside star 10. The reverse is lilac and blue with mint red. Both surfaces have several small imperfections.

**Narrative:** This date has been catalogued in the past as the rarest date among the Proof-only dates in the 1840s, which may be correct so far as *dates* are concerned. If major varieties within dates are considered, the laurels go to the 1849 Small Date.

The addition of a Proof 1845 original half cent has always been a badge of accomplishment, a distinction for an advanced cabinet of this denomination.

*Pedigree: Charles Morris Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 19-20, 1905; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., 1942. This pedigree is according to the Clapp notebook. Breen's Census records this as from the Chapman brothers, privately in April 1895 to John H. Clapp (should have been J.M. Clapp, a common mistake in the literature,*

*especially the Breen books). We have not seen the Eliasberg duplicate, which Breen listed as "Fine."*

Weight: 81.5 grains.

## Classic 1845 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 463 1845 Second Restrike. B-3; G-2. High Rarity-6, borderline Rarity-7. Exactly 15 coins were known to Breen. Proof-65, brown. A splendid gem.

**Surfaces:** Sharply struck with mottled lilac, green, and gold.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series V Restrike. This issue is very rare in its own right, but its desirability has been enhanced by the general aura historically accorded to Proofs of the 1845 date, a reflection of the status of the related originals.

*Pedigree: Thomas L. Elder; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early reverse.

Weight: 96.9 grains.

## Classic 1846 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 464 1846 Original. B-1; G-1. Rarity-6. Proof-65, brown.

**Surfaces:** Very sharply detailed. The obverse is medium brown while the reverse is olive-brown. Exceedingly deep mirrored fields.

**Narrative:** The 1846 original is very elusive, and it is believed that fewer than 20 specimens can be accounted for. In nearly all instances, populations of original Proof half cents of this era include examples permanently ensconced in the museum collections of the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

*Pedigree: John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Early.

Weight: 82.1 grains.

**Note:** The numerals in the date of all varieties of 1846 are very rustic and not from normal punches of the era. This anomaly, vividly evident when the digits are viewed under magnification, is unexplained.

## Classic 1846 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 465 1846 Second Restrike. B-3; G-2. Rarity-6. Approximately 17 known. Proof-64, red and brown. A beautiful gem.

**Surfaces:** Central weakness as always; with knife rims. Light brown with faded red and lilac. Iridescent blue obverse and reverse.

**Narrative:** Series VI Restrike. Improperly recorded by Breen as Series V. Another gem specimen from this impressive offering of classic rarities. Seldom offered at all, even less often in gem preservation.

*Pedigree: Thomas L. Elder; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

Die state: Late. Diagonal striae on the upper obverse and all of the reverse.

Weight: 77.5 grains.



## Classic 1847 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original-Style, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 466 1847 Original, B-1a; G-1. Rarity-6. Perhaps 20 exist. Proof-66, red. Superb gem quality.
- Surfaces:** Bold knife rim at the upper left obverse. Intense mint red.

**Narrative:** Classified as an "Original" but with some earmarks of Breen's Series VII Restrike; if so, it is far rarer than an original, with an original itself being a notable rarity. The present coin is a glittering gem of a quality most advanced half cent specialists have never seen before, never mind having had the chance to bid on one! A coin for the ages.

**Pedigree:** John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** Obverse die file marks are faint.

**Weight:** 82.7 grains.

**Notes:** This catalogue (Mark Borkardt) had the pleasure of assisting Dave Bowers in grading all of the coins in this collection. Every now and then Dave would glance at a coin and say "Eeek!" or "Wow," which reflected the truly sensational impact of certain rarities. This coin received said comment from Dave! In fact, very seldom was a discouraging word spoken.

## Classic 1847 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 467 1847 Second Restrike B-3; G-2. Rarity-6. Proof-65, brown. A very beautiful gem.

**Surfaces:** Central weakness especially at the upper leaves, as made. Deep mirrored fields with vivid bright blue and traces of lilac.

**Narrative:** Series VI Restrike. A splendid gem specimen of extraordinary quality.

**Pedigree:** John Story Jenks Collection; Henry Chapman, December 7-17, 1921; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** Late.

**Weight:** 89.4 grains.

## Classic 1848 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Series VII Restrike, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 468 1848 "Original" by tradition, restrike cf. Breen. B-1b; G-1. Rarity-7+. Only two specimens were known to Breen. Proof-67, red. Surfaces: Sharply detailed. Intense mint red.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series VII Restrike. Only two specimens were described by him. This is a third.

**Pedigree:** John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Die state:** Die lines and file marks are present on the obverse, as noted by Breen in his Series VII Restrike description.

**Weight:** 81.9 grains.

**Note:** All 1848 half cents are struck from the same obverse die. The date is too large for the space provided and crowds the base of the portrait of Miss Liberty. The Mint had a similar problem with the overly large dates on certain 1848 half dimes.

## Classic 1848 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
2nd Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 469 1848 Second Restrike, B-3; G-2. Rarity-7. Proof-64, brown. Another splendid gem.

**Surfaces:** Central weakness. Knife rim on the upper obverse with file marks on the reverse rim. Medium brown with vivid blue iridescence.

**Narrative:** Breen's Series V Restrike. When these coins were produced the presence of knife rims was not desirable. Mint personnel would carefully file down these high metal flanges as evidenced on the reverse of this specimen.

Six examples were recorded by Breen in his 1983 *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, although his later *Complete Encyclopedia* put the quantity at just four coins; apparently, two had been eliminated as duplicates.

**Pedigree:** William B. Winnare Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, June 27-28, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Weight:** 95.1 grains.

## Classic 1849 Small Date Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Original, Large Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 470 1849 Small Date, Original, B-1; G-1. Just 14 known. Proof-65, red and brown. High Rarity-6 or Rarity-7. A superb gem.

**Surfaces:** Bold. Obverse is red, lilac, and blue while the reverse is bright blue-brown with traces of mint red.

**Narrative:** The 1849 Small Date half cent with large berries has always been highly acclaimed, and for many years the Chapman brothers stated that only five were known. In recent decades the census has expanded, but any larger figure probably contains some duplication. In the era of the Chapmans—roughly from the late 1870s to the late 1920s—only a few dealers handled most of the major rarities, and it was easier to keep track of them. In the present era coins are much more widespread in their distribution, and there are probably a couple hundred dealers or more who handle American rarities, most of whom keep little records of pedigrees. In summary, the 1849 Small Date half cent with large berries may be rarer than presently thought, and more in line with the Chapmans' account than later tabulations. Our guess: Perhaps a dozen are known.

**Pedigree:** John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

**Weight:** 82.1 grains.

**Note:** The status of this issue as "Original" or "Restrike" has been debated over the years. We invite the reader to review Breen's comments on pages 426 and 427 of his *Half Cent Encyclopedia*. We will be happy to forward copies of these two pages upon written request to those who do not have access to a copy of this reference. In brief, although 1849 Small Date half cents with the large berries reverse style have long been called originals. As there is only one variety and one die state of the 1849 Small Date half cent with large berries reverse, it is presumed that they were all made at the same time. It is not known for certain whether that time was 1849, or whether it was later. Further, as Breen states (p. 427), "Should it later prove that all of them were made in 1859 or 1860, their status would not affect their rarity and should not affect their value..."

## Classic 1849 Small Date Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
1st Restrike, Small Berries

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 471 1849 Small Date, First Restrike. B-2; G-2. Rarity-6. Just 15 examples recorded by Breen. Proof-65, brown. A splendid gem. Surfaces: Sharp. Blue-brown with red mint color on the reverse. Narrative: Breen's Series I restrike. In Proof format, issues dated 1849 with Small Date are the rarest half cent issues of the 1840 to 1849 era.

A splendid gem, and a fitting way to conclude this exceedingly impressive lineup of Proof-only issues—one of the most extensive to appear in any auction catalogue of any era.

Die state: Early.  
Weight: 79.5 grains.

- 472 1849 Large Date. B-4; C-1; G-3. MS-60. Rarity-2. Surfaces: The stars and leaves are weak. Medium brown with splashes of red, the last a somewhat unusual characteristic.

Narrative: The 1849 Large Date is the first business strike half cent made after 1835, the interim striking consisting solely of Proofs struck in small amounts for collectors.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: II. Die file marks of the early state have faded through die wear.

Note: Full original mint red half cents of this date may not exist, and the same can be said for 1853—although each of these dates is available readily enough in circulated grades or even lower ranges of Mint State, but with brown surfaces.

- 473 1850 B-1; C-1; G-1. MS-62, brown. Rarity-2. Surfaces: Minor weakness at the upper stars. The obverse is blue-brown with faded red. The reverse is lilac and blue. A few reverse surface depressions are visible. Narrative: In our opinion, this the scarcest business strike date of the Braided Hair half cent issues.

## Prooflike 1851 Half Cent

Possible Proof Candidate

Photo instructions: 1x

- 474 1851 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-1. MS-63, red and brown, prooflike. Surfaces: Sharply detailed. Red, lilac, and blue obverse. Mottled mint red and brilliant blue reverse.

Narrative: Possibly struck as a Proof. We invite the prospective purchaser to carefully examine this coin. The state of the art on what is an early Proof and what is a prooflike business strike still is not definitive or complete.

Pedigree: Henry Blair Collection; Charles Steigerwalt, October 14, 1896; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., 1942. Listed in the Clapp notebook as "Uncirculated" and recorded on the Eliasberg inventory as "Proof."

Die state: II. Very faint die strike. This die state, according to Walter Breen, is only known in business strike format.  
Weight: 83.9 grains.

## Classic 1852 Half Cent Rarity

Proof-Only Issue  
Small Berries Restrike

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 475 1852 Restrike. B-2; G-2. Rarity-5. Proof-65, red and brown. Surfaces: Bold. Obverse slightly faded red and lilac with bright blue reverse.

Narrative: Small berries, doubled T. Breen's Series I Restrike. The 1852 half cent has always been highly acclaimed, representing as it does the only Proof-only date in the 1850s. Years ago, the 1852 half cents with small berries were often called originals (see note under following lot).

Pedigree: Apparently from the Harlan P. Smith collection sale to William Hesslein who sold the coin to John H. Clapp. Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: I. Perfect dies.  
Weight: 79.8 grains.

## Proof 1852 Restrike Half Cent

Proof-Only Issue  
Erstwhile "Original"

Photo instructions: 2x + Color

- 476 1852 Large Berries Restrike. B-4; G-1. Rarity-7. Just five recorded. Proof-63, brown.

Surfaces: Slight weakness among some leaves. Iridescent blue with traces of red on the obverse.

Narrative: Breen's Series VII Restrike. Divergent opinions have been stated regarding the status of this issue. In his *Half Cent Encyclopedia*, Breen provides a two page discussion of this matter (copy available upon written request; a summary is given below).

Pedigree: John G. Mills Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, April 27-29, 1904; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Weight: 84.7 grains.

Notes: Walter Breen noted the distinction regarding the "Original" versus "Restrike" question:

"This variety has been controversial for over a century. There is no point in devoting twenty-odd pages to quoting the rambling, divergent opinions [all equally unsupported by positive evidence] on this subject. These mostly fall into two opposing positions.

"Proponents of the first theory [Gilbert, B. Max Mehl, S.H. Chapman, and Joseph Brodman among them] hold that not only are the originals of the 1840-1849 group the Large Berry coins, but this old die was resurrected [why?] for the next Proof-only date, namely 1852.

"Proponents of the second theory [George W. Rice, Gilbert's publisher Thomas L. Elder, Henry Chapman, Edouard Frossard, Charles Steigerwalt among them] hold that whether or not the originals in the 1840s had Large Berries, the original 1852 had Small Berries, and the Large Berry coins dated 1852 are restrikes."

Photo instructions: 1x

- 477 1853 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity 1. MS-65, brown. Surfaces: Sharp. Satiny medium brown with traces of faded red lustre.

Narrative: Possibly unknown full mint red.

Die state: III. A faint crack is visible through the first T in STATES.

How only a trace of red. Mine mostly red. This has slightly weak strike in denticles at K7. Red both loosely. Same color difference. Not mine clearly on color.

## Vivid 1854 Proof Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color **PF**

- 478 1854 B-2; G-1. Rarity-6 as a Proof. Approximately 30 Proofs are known. Proof-64, red and brown. Gem.

Surfaces: Sharply struck. Faded red obverse, brown reverse, with a small spot in the field above HALF.

Narrative: Proofs of this date were all struck in 1854, so far as is known, and were included with sets sold that year.

Pedigree: Henry Blair Collection; Charles Steigerwalt, October 14, 1896; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: Early with die lines at M and F.

Weight: 83.6 grains.

## Delightful 1855 Proof Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color **PF**

- 479 1855 B-1; G-1. High Rarity-5 as Proof, possibly Rarity-6. Proof-64, brown. Gem.

Surfaces: Fully defined. Golden brown with vivid blue highlights.

Narrative: Probably about three dozen or so Proofs are known, most of which are not gems. Probably about on a par rarity-wise with the Proof 1854, although Walter Breen assigns it a slightly lower rarity scale rating.

Pedigree: The Clapp notebook has recorded two Proofs of this date, one from Wetmore's sale (S.H. and Henry Chapman, June 1906) and the other from the Blair Collection sale (Charles Steigerwalt, October 1896). Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: I. Perfect dies with faint die strikes.

Weight: 85.0 grains.

Note: Over the years in the copper and silver Proof series it has been our general observation that 1855 Proofs are rarer than those dated 1854, and 1857 Proofs are rarer than 1856 issues.

## Lovely 1856 Proof Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color **PF**

- 480 1856 B-3; G-1. Rarity-4. Approximately 75 to 80 Proofs exist. Proof-65, red and brown. Splendid gem.

Surfaces: Bold. Brilliant red obverse with medium brown and blue reverse.

Narrative: Only Proofs were struck from this die combination. The reverse die, with doubled ribbon features and ENT in CENT, was first used in 1856 and later for the "First Restrikes" of 1840 through 1849. As this 1856 issue constituted the first use of this reverse, and the restrikes provide the second use, the era of the First Restrikes dated 1840 to 1849 must have begun in or after 1856.

Pedigree: Harlan P. Smith Collection; S.H. and Henry Chapman, May 8-11, 1906; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Weight: 80.4 grains.

Notes: For the 1856 pattern half cent issue in copper-nickel composition, refer to Lot 110.

Photo instructions: 1x **PF** **60**

- 481 1857 B-1; C-1; G-1. Rarity-2. MS-64, red and brown.

Surfaces: Some weakness on stems and leaves. Mostly red beginning to fade brown. A small spot joins the upper left curve of O in OF. One of the finer examples to come on the market in recent times.

Narrative: Final issue of the half cent denomination with 35,180 pieces coined on August 14, 1857. Many, perhaps most, of these were retained at the Mint and later melted (per the personal commentary of Mint Director James Ross Snowden).

Pedigree: Henry Blair Collection; Charles Steigerwalt, October 14, 1896;

J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Note: The 1857 is the swan song of the half cent denomination. Business strikes were never common in commercial channels in the 1850s, and soon what few there were disappeared.

## Superb Gem Proof 1857 Half Cent

Photo instructions: 2x + Color **PF**

- 482 1857 B-2; G-1. Rarity-5. Proof-66, brown.

Surfaces: Sharp. The obverse is deep blue mixed with lilac and faded red. The reverse is intense bluish brown.

Narrative: "Reverse of 1856." The second use of this reverse die as noted above at Lot 480.

Pedigree: Matthew A. Stickney Collection; Henry Chapman, June 25-29, 1907; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

Die state: The date is weak.

Weight: 83.2 grains.

- 483 Balance of half cent collection: • 1806 Small 6, Stems. B-1; C-2; G-2. G-5, slightly bent. • 1809 B-4; C-3; G-4. MS-60, obverse scratches. • 1832 B-2; C-2; G-1. FF-45, recolored. (Total: 3 pieces).

4/13/82

Norman Stack

They split the  
collection

Low, Jr. Gold (will be sold - by  
another firm <sup>our people</sup> get it!)

Richard Silver & Copper (Not in  
prospect)

Foreign divided

Re : Eliasberg Collection



SNP

**Terms:** In accordance with the terms stated in the catalogue, payment is due upon receipt of this invoice.

Customer—white

Accounting—pink

**Auction—yellow**

Shipping—green

(402) 895-3065

DATE 6-17-96

NAME H. JETTENHORST

STREET P.O. Box 14030

CITY ST. LOUIS STATE MO ZIP 63178

[illegible]



6/20/96

TOM REYNOLDS

Suggested wording of invoice:

Date: 6/17/96

Amount: \$7,717.75

Reimbursement of advance in  
connection with like-kind exchange  
of low grade large cents for  
Lot #467 in the Eliasberg sale.

FROM THE DESK OF R. TETTENHORST

# TOM REYNOLDS

P.O. Box 24529 - Omaha, NE 68124

(402) 895-3065

Specializing in Half Cents and Large Cents

DATE 6-17-96

NAME R. TETTENHORST

STREET P.O. Box 14020

CITY ST. LOUIS STATE MO ZIP 63178

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
	PURCHASE OF LOW GRADE	\$7500
	LARGE CENTS --- TO BE	
	PAID BY 8-4-96	

6/20/96 You want to call Tom Reynolds and advise him that you are doing a like-kind exchange for the lot in the Eliasberg collection. You would like him to so note that in his records. You're advancing the money now by paying Bowers & Merena for lot 467.

mb

No is sending  
me a replacement  
invoice  
for this one,  
also to be dated  
6/17

- 1) Fol. He will do. I owe him \$17.75/100
- 2) If he sells mine for more, he will pay me extra.



Auctions by  
Bowers and Merena, Inc.

Box 1224, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894  
(603) 569-5095

38790

PAGE 1 OF 1

DATE: 05/22/96

R TETTENHORST

Bidder Number: F0561

SNP

BOX 14020  
ST LOUIS, MO 63178

LOUIS E. ELIASBERG, SR COLLECTION  
May 20-22, 1996

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
467	7000.00						

pd 6-18-96  
ch 648  
\$7000

pd 6-19-96  
ch 649  
\$717.75  
(1075)

Number of Lots Bought: 1

Total Value Lots Bought: \$ 7000.00  
Buyers Fee: 700.00  
Shipping and Handling: 17.75  
INVOICE TOTAL: \$ 7717.75

Terms: In accordance with the terms  
stated in the catalogue, payment is due  
upon receipt of this invoice.

Customer—white

Accounting—pink

Auction—yellow

Shipping—green



Auctions by  
Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
Box 1224, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894  
(603) 569-5095

38791

PAGE 1 OF 1

DATE: 05/22/96

EPN NES

Bidder Number: 03009

SNP

BOX 14020  
ST LOUIS, MO 63178

LOUIS E. ELIASBERG, SR COLLECTION  
May 20-22, 1996

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
402	14500.00						

Number of Lots Bought: 1

Total Value Lots Bought: \$ 14500.00

Buyers Fee: 1450.00

INVOICE TOTAL: \$ 15950.00

Terms: In accordance with the terms  
stated in the catalogue, payment is due  
upon receipt of this invoice.

Customer—white

Accounting—pink

Auction—yellow

Shipping—green

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

FDL  
Don Sullivan  
SERIAL  
SEPARATE  
INVOICES  
8/8/96

May 29, 1996

ERIC NEWMAN

RE: Attached

If EPNNES would be willing to pay for Lot 402, that would be helpful to me personally. The total price including buyer's fee is \$15,950.

Let me know if you would like me to write Bowers and Merena to have the invoice reissued as two separate invoices to EPNNES and R. Tettenhorst respectively.

R. TETTENHORST

mb

Attachments



Auctions by  
Bowers and Merena, Inc.

Box 1224, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894  
(603) 569-5095

39164

PAGE 1 OF 1

DATE: 05/22/96

R TETTENHORST

Bidder Number: F0561

SNP

BOX 14020

ST LOUIS, MO 63178

LOUIS E. ELIASBERG, SR COLLECTION  
May 20-22, 1996

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
402	14500.00						
467	7000.00						

Number of Lots Bought: 2

Total Value Lots Bought: \$ 21500.00

Buyers Fee: 2150.00

Shipping and Handling: 17.75

INVOICE TOTAL: \$ 23667.75

Terms: In accordance with the terms  
stated in the catalogue, payment is due  
upon receipt of this invoice.

Customer—white

Accounting—pink

Auction—yellow

Shipping—green





# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

*When Great Collections Are Sold, Bowers and Merena Sells Them.*

May 24, 1996

Dear Friend:

I am pleased to inform you that you were a successful bidder in our recently completed sale of The Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection. Enclosed is a copy of your invoice listing the lots you have been awarded and the price of each lot. The total amount due, including the 10% buyer's premium, postage and handling, and insurance, appears at the bottom of the invoice. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. Your lots will be shipped to you upon receipt of payment.

Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed statement, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the auction department.

On behalf of the entire Bowers and Merena organization, I wish to thank you for your participation in this sale. We hope your participation was enjoyable, and that you will continue to favor us with bids in the future.

Sincerely,

Cynthia LaCarbonara  
Auction Department

Enclosures: As stated